

Message Text

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11

ACTION AGR-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 NEA-10 EB-11 COME-00

TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-20 IGA-02 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 /133 W

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R 200505Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2210

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CANBERRA 6878

PASS AGRICULTURE FOR HUME

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EGEN, AS

SUBJECT: BANGLADESH WHEAT PURCHASE MISSION

1. BANGLADESH DELEGATION LED BY FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES MINISTER PHANI MAJUMDAR ARRIVED IN AUSTRALIA YESTERDAY TO NEGOTIATE SUPPLY OF 300,000 METRIC TONS OF WHEAT DURING 1974. MR. MAJUMDAR STATED TO PRESS THAT AWB HAD INDICATED THAT THIS AMOUNT WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR SHIPMENT IN 1974, AND GOB HOPED TO PURCHASE SIMILAR QUANTITIES EACH YEAR UNTIL 1978. WHEAT BOARD INDICATED TO AGATTACHE OFFICE QUANTITY NOT YET CERTAIN ALTHOUGH 300,000 TONS WAS MENTIONED IN PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS. DELEGATION WILL MEET WITH AWB DECEMBER 20 FOR FINAL NEGOTIATIONS, ON PRICE AND CREDIT TERMS.

2. DELEGATION WILL MEET WITH DOT MINISTER CAIRNS AND DFA MINISTER WILLESEE ON DECEMBER 21, AND WILL PROBABLY SEEK ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE FROM GOA UNDER FOOD AID ARRANGEMENTS. BANGLADESH ALREADY RECIPIENT OF 54,000 TONS AUSTRALIAN WHEAT UNDER FAC, AND DFA NOW EXAMINING

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POSSIBILITY OF ADDITIONAL ALLOCATION IN FINAL DISTRIBUTION

OF REMAINING UNCOMMITTED AUSTRALIAN AID. MR. MAJUMDAR
WAS INFORMALLY TOLD BY DFA CHANCES FOR SUBSTANTIAL
ADDITIONAL ALLOCATION GOOD.

3. AWB EXPECTED EARLIER THAT PART OF THE RECENTLY
NEGOTIATED CONTRACT WITH USSR FOR 600,000 METRIC TONS
FOR 1974 SHIPMENT WOULD BE DIVERTED BY THE USSR TO
BANGLADESH. HOWEVER, IT NOW APPEARS THAT NONE OF
THIS WHEAT WILL BE SHIPPED TO THAT COUNTRY.

4. AWB WAS TOLD BY USSR DURING NEGOTIATIONS THAT ONLY
ABOUT 200,000 TO 300,000 TONS OF THE QUANTITY CONTRACTED
WOULD BE DIVERTED TO INDIA, BUT LATEST INDICATIONS ARE THAT
THE ENTIRE 600,000 TONS WILL GO TO INDIA DURING EARLY
1974.
GREEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: smithrj
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973CANBER06878
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: CANBERRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731214/aaaaajxu.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AGR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: smithrj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22-Oct-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <13-Dec-2001 by smithrj>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BANGLADESH WHEAT PURCHASE MISSION
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EGEN, AS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005